The Blue Ridge Music Center honors and celebrates the living musical heritage of the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding area and interprets its significance within the larger landscape of American music and culture. For generations, its tiny rural communities have produced an abundance of remarkable traditional musicians who have become keepers of a legacy rooted in the rhythms of African banjo and the melodies of the European violin.

For these musicians, dancers, instrument makers, and communities, music is an integral part of life. The region created and still maintains a wellspring of old-time, bluegrass, and mountain gospel sounds that have profoundly influenced the development of American music. The Blue Ridge region is truly one of the most musical places on Earth.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1997, with support from The National Council for the Traditional Arts, the Music Center includes an outdoor amphitheater, an indoor interpretive center/theater, and The Roots of American Music Museum, a FREE interactive, and entertaining, exhibition highlighting the historical significance of the region’s music. Trace the history of Blue Ridge Mountain Music through local artists back to the creation of the music generations ago by persons from Europe and West Africa, and shows its continued influence on many forms of folk, rock, and popular music made across America today. The Blue Ridge Music Center is operated by the National Park Service, and musical programming is coordinated through a partnership with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

Other Heritage Sites to Visit

Matthews Living History Farm
476 White Pine Rd., Galax, VA 24333
(276) 773-3080 | www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org
matthewsfarm@gmail.com

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

New River Trail State Park
116 Orphanage Dr., Max Meadows, VA 24360
(276) 699-6778
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/new-river-trail

Blue Ridge Parkway
www.blueridgeparkway.org

Where to Stay

Hampton Inn Galax
205 Cranberry Rd., Galax, VA 24333-2507
(855) 605-0317

Fiddlers Roost Cabins
near Galax VA
(276) 236-1212 | www.fiddlersroostcabins.com

A Place by the Parkway
near Galax VA
(276) 233-5884 or (276) 233-3436
www.aplacebytheparkway.com

The Doctor’s Inn
406 W. Stuart Dr., Galax, VA 24333
(276) 238-9998 | www.thedoctorsinnvirginia.com

Where to Dine

Creek Bottom Brewing Tasting Room & Pub
307 North Meadow St., Galax, VA 24333-3019
(276) 236-2337 | www.cbbrews.com/lil-bottom

Galax Smokehouse
101 N. Main St., Galax, VA 24333-2976
www.galaxsmokehouse.com